

WILLIAMS OBSTETRICS—Eleventh Edition—Nicholson J. Eastman, Professor of Obstetrics, Johns Hopkins University. Appleton-Century-Crofts, Inc., New York, 1956. 1212 pages, \$14.00.

This new edition should secure for "Williams Obstetrics" a firm footing for all time as a "standard text," or the kind of book described by David Sinclair in his essay on "The Student Textbook" as one which is unanimously accepted by the most diverse medical schools. He goes on to say that "some of its success indeed may be due to a combination of luck and good publishing management, but if so many find it useful one cannot escape the conclusion that it must fulfill its purpose better than most of its fellows." Herein appears to lie the success "Williams" has enjoyed as an undergraduate text since its first edition appeared in the earliest days of this century.

Your reviewer's favorable comments on the previous (tenth) edition, the first under Eastman's editorship, appeared in this journal in January, 1951. There is little else one can say about the new edition beyond pointing out that it is a better book than its predecessor for at least two reasons. In the first place, a larger proportion of the text has been rephrased in Eastman's pleasing and lucid editorial style. Secondly, as one would suspect, there are many new or completely rewritten sections concerning problems which have been the focus of obstetric research in the past five or six years, such as fibrinogenopenia, the use of hypotensive drugs, uterine blood flow, adrenocortical hormones, and retrolental fibroplasia, just to mention a few. Included in the book for the first time is an excellent chapter on the psychiatric aspects of pregnancy, written by Leo Kanner.

A larger and more attractive type is used in this edition, and the illustrations are more numerous, yet the total length of the volume has not been appreciably changed. "Williams" will continue to rank as the number one choice of most teachers of obstetrics because it fulfills all the essential qualifications of a textbook. But to quote again Sinclair's delightful essay, "the student, if it is humanly possible, likes his reading to be interesting and stimulating," and it is this qualification which the new "Williams" possesses to a greater degree than any American obstetrical text currently available. Everyone who is practicing, studying, or teaching obstetrics should own this book and should read it frequently.

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PSYCHOANALYSIS AND PSYCHOTHERAPY—Developments in Theory, Technique, and Training—Franz Alexander, M.D., Director, Chicago Institute for Psychoanalysis, Clinical Professor of Psychiatry, University of Illinois, W. W. Norton & Company, Inc., New York, 1956. 299 pages, \$4.75.

This is another book on these subjects from this distinguished author. He reviews the developments in this field in terms of theory, technique and training. He brings up to date his thinking on psychoanalytic theory and the technique of psychoanalytic therapy. He discusses the classical and modified approaches.

A considerable portion of the book is concerned with psychotherapy, "dynamic psychotherapy" and "psychoanalytically oriented psychotherapy." There is also the presentation of opinions of contemporary teachers of psychiatry and psychoanalysis in various medical schools, clinics and psychoanalytic institutes regarding the teaching of psychiatry, psychoanalysis and psychotherapy.

The book has a great deal of excellent material. The extremes of attitudes and belief are covered but there seems to be an indication of a trend toward a middle ground of opinion and practice.

This book will primarily be of interest to psychoanalysts, psychiatrists and those concerned with psychoanalytic and psychiatric education.

ALCOHOLISM AS A MEDICAL PROBLEM—H. D. Kruse, M.D., Editor, A Conference held under the auspices of the Committee on Public Health of the New York Academy of Medicine and the New York State Mental Health Commission. Paul B. Hoeber, Inc., Medical Book Department of Harper & Brothers, 49 East 33rd Street, New York, 1956. 102 pages, \$3.00.

The book reports a conference sponsored by two New York state medical departments. Half of the eight papers discuss the causes of alcoholism; two describe its onset and course; and one each presents the epidemiology and an evaluation of treatment. The eight participants formulate briefly considerable factual knowledge about alcoholism and some interesting theoretical concepts, mainly as a basis for suggesting various promising areas of research.

Arguments as to whether alcoholism is a disease serve little purpose in the presentation of alcoholism as a medical problem. The discussion is weakest in one of the stated aims, a consideration of proper procedures for the evaluation of treatment. Alcoholism as an addiction is not explained, nor is the practical management of the alcoholic discussed. The contributions of Alcoholics Anonymous are ignored. The physical aspects of brain disease in a large number of chronic cases of alcoholism; the use of a physiologic restraint such as disulfiram in the treatment of compulsive drinking; the need for research in the prevention of delirium; and the important research of men like Courville are either slighted or omitted. One participant frankly admits the futility of overconcentration on the chronic drinker's personality disorder and the failure of psychoanalytic treatment. Too few of the eight participants have had practical experience in the treatment of alcoholism.

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ROENTGEN SIGNS IN CLINICAL DIAGNOSIS—Isadore Meschan, M.A., M.D., Professor and Director of the Department of Radiology at Bowman Gray School of Medicine, Wake Forest College. With the assistance of R. M. F. Farrer-Meschan, M.B., B.S. W. B. Saunders Company, Philadelphia, 1956. 1,058 pages, 2,216 illustrations on 780 figures, \$20.00.

Many years ago there appeared a small monograph entitled "Röntgendiagnostik der Erkrankungen innerer Organe in tabellenform" written by Dr. Emmerich Markovits of Vienna. This summarized in surprisingly brief and effective fashion the differential diagnosis of various diseases based on the objective findings at roentgenoscopy or roentgenography. The present work is a much larger and more ambitious effort along similar lines. The author summarizes the fundamentals of radiographic technique and the information to be obtained by radiography of different portions of the skeleton. Then, in a series of some 25 chapters, he deals with the diagnosis and differential diagnosis of various disease conditions based upon the objective evidence at hand plus the other clinical information furnished by the examining physician.

The nonspecific nature of the microscopic and macroscopic changes occurring in different types of disease is well known to experienced pathologists. Roentgenography consists essentially in the recording of living macroscopic pathology, and therefore many roentgenographic findings are by their nature nonspecific.

The book is written primarily for medical students and residents in radiology, and should be of considerable use to such workers. It is well printed and illustrated, and the number of references is sufficiently small not to detract from the fundamental text nor to cause the reader to indulge in undue serendipity. The material is based on the author's experience, especially at the University of Arkansas; he is now professor of radiology at Bowman Gray School of Medicine.